

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 /163 W
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1614

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, UN

SUBJECT: DUTCH ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRONK HAS ANNOUNCED GON WILL PROVIDE DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. PRONK SAID THE GON PREFERS TO CHANNEL SUCH ASSISTANCE THROUGH UN BUT IF THIS NOT FEASIBLE, GON WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE THROUGH REGIONAL OR NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 2, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MINISTER PRONK COMMENTED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT UNDP SESSION IN GENEVA. HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT DUTCH INITIATIVE DID NOT RECEIVE MORE SUPPORT AND ATTRIBUTED THIS IN PART TO LACK OF ADEQUATE PRIOR CONSULTATIONS BUT ALSO TO STRONG RESISTANCE OF DUTCH EC PARTNERS AND US. PRONK SAID GON WAS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE REITERATED THAT GON PREFER MULTI- LATERAL ASSISTANCE UNDER
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UN AUSPICES, BUT IF THIS NOT FEASIBLE, GON WILL CONSIDER WORKING THROUGH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS OAU, OR INDEPENDENT NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. PRONK INDICATED HE WOULD DEVELOP THIS STANDPOINT AT ECOSOC MEETING.

3. ASKED WHETHER GON INTENDED SUPPLY ARMS TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PRONK SAID NO, BUT POINTED TO " SUBSTITUTE EFFECT" OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. I. E. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WILL ALLOW LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO SPEND MORE ON ARMS. ASKED WHETHER GON WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENSURE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WAS NOT BEING DIVERTED, I. E. SOMEHOW USED TO PURCHASE ARMS, PRONK SAID IT WAS NOT GON' S BUSINESS TO UNDERTAKE SUPERVISION SINCE THIS WOULD BE " PATERNALISM." PRONK SAID PURPOSE OF ASSISTANCE WAS " POLITICAL" SINCE IT WAS GIVEN WITH PURPOSE OF ASSISTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO END PORTUGUESE COLONIAL DOMINATION.

4. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE GON RECONITION OF LIBERATION " GOVERNMENTS IN EXILE" (IF ANY PROCLAIMED), PRONK INDICATED CABINET WOULD INVESTIGATE THIS QUESTION AND HE HOPED INVESTIGATION' S RESULT WOULD BE POSITIVE. HE SAID PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS QUESTION IS WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER VAN DER STOEL.

5. COMMENT: PRONK' S STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEWS AND PROBABLY REPRESENTS DOMINANT OPINION WITHIN DUTCH LABOR PARTY, IF NOT CABINET. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MINISTER COMMENT PUT GON ALONG WITH NORDICS IN FOREFRONT OF OPPONENTS OF CONTINUED PORTUGUESE PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHILE WE DO NOT QUESTION SINCERITY OF PRONK' S PERSONAL BELIEFS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED LEFT WING POLITICIANS CONSIDER ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IS RELATIVELY LOW COST WAY FOR LABOR PARTY AND LABOR MINISTER IN NEW GOVT TO MAKE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CAPITAL WITHOUT REALLY DOING TOO MUCH HARM TO ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY.
END COMMENT.
TANGUY

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